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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9268
INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 5994

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 002496

SIPDIS

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AMMAN FOR KANESHIRO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREF](#) [SY](#)

SUBJECT: EMBASSY DAMASCUS PROPOSAL FOR 2006 AMBASSADORS'
FUND FOR REFUGEES

REF: STATE 41367

[1](#)1. (U) Request: Post requests \$20,000 from the Ambassadors, Fund for Refugees for the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) to buy X-ray equipment for a clinic under construction in the Damascus neighborhood of Saida Zeinab.

[1](#)2. (U) Background and justification: The SARC was founded in 1942 and became an implementing partner of UNHCR in 1992. The SARC conducts home visits and provides basic services to those referred by UNHCR, including medical services to refugees and needy Iraqis, out of rented clinic space in Saida Zeinab, a populous suburb of Damascus. The organization is building its own medical clinic on donated land in Saida Zeinab to expand the provision of these services. Currently, the SARC refers Saida Zeinab patients to other facilities for x-rays, so the new equipment would fill a gap in existing health services. The March 2006 "Assessment of the Situation of Iraqi Refugees in Syria" by UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP highlighted the need to expand health services to the estimated 450,000 displaced Iraqis in Syria, many of whom reside in Saida Zeinab.

[1](#)3. (U) Estimated budget:

ITEM	Value \$
X-Ray equipment for the new clinic	20,000
TOTAL	20,000.00

[1](#)4. (U) Implementation: Emboff and the Amman-based Regional Refcoord will monitor the program.

[1](#)5. (U) Post has the authority and procedures in place to transfer these funds to the SARC.
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